

### **REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Prior to entry of this response, Claims 26-32, 34-36, and 38-53 were pending in the application, of which Claims 26, 34, 38, 42, and 43 are independent. Following this response, Claims 26-32, 34-36, and 38-53 remain in this application. Applicants hereby address the Examiner's rejections in turn.

#### **I. Rejection of the Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph**

In the Office Action dated September 18, 2006, the Examiner rejected Claims 26-53 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as their invention. Moreover, in the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated February 12, 2007, the Examiner stated that Applicants failed to address the rejection of Claim 26-53 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 in the Amendment filed November 27, 2006. Claims 26, 34, 38, 42, and 43 have been amended and Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments overcome this rejection and add no new matter.

#### **II. Conclusion**

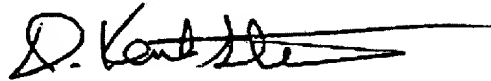
In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims. The preceding arguments are based only on the arguments in the Office Action, and therefore do not address patentable aspects of the invention that were not addressed by the Examiner in the Office Action. The claims may include other elements that are not shown, taught, or suggested by the cited art. Accordingly, the

preceding argument in favor of patentability is advanced without prejudice to other bases of patentability. Furthermore, the Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,  
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